

## **FISCAL NOTE**

### **HB 1553 - SB 2023**

March 23, 2007

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires Commissioner of Agriculture and state veterinarian to give owner or person in charge 72-hour prior notice before entering property to test animals for disease. Authorizes the owner to have the animal tested for disease by a private laboratory before such animal is destroyed or confiscated.

#### **ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

##### **Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$100,000**

##### Assumptions:

- Over the past three years indemnity payments averaging \$30,000 per year, in state and federal funds, have been made to Tennessee livestock producers for animals that were depopulated because of disease.
- Currently there is no time limit for disposition of any diseased animal and the Department of Agriculture acts on reports of diseased livestock within three hours.
- Delaying the process by 72 hours would allow for diseases to spread more rapidly. The cost of depopulating diseased animals will increase substantially. It is estimated that costs for indemnification will increase \$100,000, although the precise cost and the consequences to the state and the department is unknown.
- No fiscal impact to the Department of Health.

#### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director